

October 5, 2006

Mr. Mania Pothorski 51 West Weber Road Columbus, Ohio 43202

Dear Mr. Pothorski:

NBC4 recently received from the Federal Communications Commission a letter dated September 21, 2006, enclosing an email message that you sent the FCC shortly before then.

Your email message explained how you and your family were watching the local affiliate of ABC, NBC, or CBS, or the local weather radar on Time Warner's Channel 26 on August 28th at approximately 6:45 PM. You noted that a tornado warning popped up on the channel you were watching, and the alert advised residents in Franklin County to take cover due to a tornado in the area.

We understand from your email message that you and your family followed this warning promptly and were not harmed. Yet, later that evening, your neighbors explained that you did not need to take cover because the tornado was not in your area. Your email message also observed that the television channel reported that a tornado warning had been issued for Franklin County but did not specify for viewers (rather than listeners) the precise areas most threatened by the tornado.

NBC4 takes very seriously all viewer comments and concerns. Accordingly, I personally ordered an immediate investigation of our television station's broadcasts on the night in question. As explained in more detail below, we believe that NBC4 provided timely and accurate information about the multiple tornadoes that appeared out-of-nowhere in our area on the evening of August 28, 2006.

On August 28, 2006, the National Weather Service in Wilmington, Ohio issued these severe weather alerts:

- at 6:34 PM, it issued a tornado warning for Pickaway County lasting until 7:00 PM.
- at 6:40 PM, it issued a tornado warning for Fairfield County lasting until 7:15 PM.
- at 6:46 PM, it issued a tornado warning for Franklin County lasting until 7:30 PM.
- at 7:25 PM, it extended the tornado warning for Franklin County until 8:00 PM.

Starting shortly after 6:30 PM, NBC4's own Doppler weather radar indicated that a dangerous storm had developed near Grove City and was moving northeast at approximately 15 mph. Within minutes after the National Weather Service issued the first tornado warning, WCMH-TV broadcast its first crawl across the top of the screen. We also displayed, at the bottom of the screen, a small map of Ohio depicting Pickaway County in red next to the words, "Tornado Warning."

A few minutes later, NBC4 interrupted regular programming to provide additional information on the weather emergency through live Doppler radar images of the affected area. As the National Weather Service expanded the alerts, we expanded our special coverage. During this time, we mostly broadcast radar images and state-, county-, city- and sometimes even street-level maps showing the storm's track and likely path. We interrupted the weather radar at various points to show graphics and text giving viewers specific information to read about precautions that should be taken.

Consequently, we believe that NBC4 provided local viewers with timely, accurate information about the National Weather Service warnings, which included your county. In addition, the news and weather professionals on NBC4 that evening provided detailed information about the areas most at risk on the screen through our extensive use of radar, maps, and graphics. As a result, we hope and believe that all viewers who watched NBC4 during this time would have seen the storm's track and possible path, even if our viewers could not hear the audio.

We are proud of the good work that our professionals provided during the August 28th weather emergency. Nevertheless, as a direct result of your feedback, we reevaluated our internal policies and procedures for covering local emergencies as well as how we actually responded under the pressing circumstances on the August 28th. We concluded that NBC4 could have performed better that evening. As a result, we are today modifying our procedures and lines of communication to ensure our broadcasts provide more detailed information, more often, to all viewers and to all listeners in our area.

The next time the Columbus area experiences a weather emergency (hopefully not too soon), we hope that you will tune to us. Afterward, NBC4 invites you to share with me personally your feedback and impressions on how we did.

Thank you again for your interest in our station. We appreciate the opportunity to address and learn from your comments and concerns.

Singerely,

Craig Robinson

President WCMH-TV

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Columbus, OH 43202